

From: Ostravich
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/20/01 12:08pm
Subject: Microsoft Anti-Trust lawsuit

I've been told I can e-mail this address to provide feedback on the Microsoft Anti-Trust settlement currently on the table. Although I am heartened by the advance in the settlement to prevent "exclusive dealing", I am very disappointed that there are no restrictions to prevent Microsoft from bundling any product into their operating system.

Microsoft employees clearly stated in the e-mails used in evidence at the trial that the only reason they bundled Internet Explorer into their Windows operating system was because Internet Explorer was an inferior product and the bundling prevented competitor's products from being used. They attempted to do the same thing with Apple's QuickTime and even broke competitor's software so that it would not run properly leaving Microsoft's version of that product as the only alternative.

Now with the advent of Microsoft's XP operating system I am concerned that there will be no competition for Multimedia products and whatever else Microsoft wants to compete in.

The way it has worked in the past is if Microsoft has used technology to redirect any content to Microsoft's products for displaying that content. What they've done with Internet Explorer, they will now do with their multimedia products destroying any competition or reason for a company to make a competing product.

Let me be clear - I don't think the solution should be a financial one. The trial clearly shows that Microsoft engaged in behavior that was anti-competitive and a punitive monetary solution will not correct that.

If Microsoft should not be split into an operating systems company and an application company, I would at least like to see a clear division of Applications and Operating Systems so that if a company wants to make a competing product it can be easily plugged in to the Microsoft Windows Operating System.

Competing companies must find it frustrating when they invent the technology (Netscape, Real Networks, Sun Microsystems), and then Microsoft duplicates the technology and disallows those competing companies software to work correctly. This is not Microsoft being innovative - they have not invented any of this technology. They've simply embraced that technology, sometimes extended it, and shut out their competition. This means there will be no further innovations in that technology arena because there is no incentive for the companies to extend technology that will not be deployed on the Windows platform.

Please reconsider the current settlement and renegotiate the settlement to prevent Microsoft from stifling competition.

Thanks for your time,

Greg Ostravich